



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

- WHEREAS: America's involvement in Vietnam began in June 1954 with military advisors, escalated into 11 years of military combat involving more than 3 million servicemen and servicewomen, and officially ended on May 15, 1975, with a Joint Special Operations Squadron rescuing the crew of the U. S. Merchant Ship "Mayaguez" on the island of Koh Tang near Cambodia; and
- WHEREAS: More than 228,000 of Georgia's bravest sons and daughters wore the uniforms of our nation's Armed Forces during this most turbulent time in U. S. history, enduring the war's unpopularity and risking their lives fighting for the democracy of a foreign country. We reflect on the life-changing combat wounds of some 8,500 Georgians, the hardship endured by the 21 Georgians held as Prisoners of War and the suffering and sacrifice felt by the families of 30 Georgians still Missing in Action; and
- WHEREAS: Since their unveiling, Vietnam War memorials across the country and here at our State Capitol have helped heal a nation deeply divided by paying eternal tribute to the 58,286 American service men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. Of the names listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., 1,584 are from the State of Georgia; and
- WHEREAS: Twelve Georgia Vietnam Veterans were awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest distinction that can be bestowed by the President of the United States in the name of the U.S. Congress, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepid actions as they risked their lives and went above and beyond the call of duty; and
- WHEREAS: On Vietnam Veterans Day, we remember and appreciate with grateful hearts the contributions of the 234,000 Vietnam veterans now living in Georgia, as well as the extraordinary bravery of all of Georgia's veterans through centuries; and
- WHEREAS: Vietnam Veterans Day affords us the opportunity to recall, with pride and gratitude, the selfless military service, patriotism, battle courage and personal sacrifice of these service men and women who answer their country's call to duty to fight for another nation's peace and democracy; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 29, 2017, as VIETNAM VETERANS DAY in Georgia and invite all citizens, both in public ceremonies and in private thoughts and prayers, to gratefully acknowledge our Vietnam Veterans.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 27th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley
CHIEF OF STAFF